from certain States/UTs like Tamilnadu, Haryana and Delhi, no one has so far been punished for want of evidence.

The responsibility for implementation of the Act rests largely with the States/UTs. The States/UTs have been advised to mount an effective awareness campaign to make the public and service providers aware of the provisions of the Act. The States/UTs have also been advised to provide protection to social activists and Non-Governmental organizations giving information or filing complaints of violation of provisions of the Act. Supreme Court in PIL, has issued certain directions on 4th May, 2001 to all concerned, including the Central Government, State Governments and Appropriate Authorities to take steps for effective implementation of the Act.

Workshops/Seminars are being organised at State/district level, to create awareness about the provisions of the Act. Leading Non Governmental Organisations have been requested to take on projects about generating awareness about the provisions of the Act, among doctors/clinics/law inforcing authorities and public at large.

Prevention of female foeticide

53. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to associate religious leaders for prevention of female foeticide creating imbalances in sex ratio in certain States like Haryana, Punjab etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, how the balance will be maintained?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (c) Indian Medical Association in collaboration with UNICEF and National Commission for Women convened a Religious leaders' meet against female foeticide/ infanticide on 24th June 2001 at New Delhi. The Meet was attended by many religious leaders, government functionaries, doctors, social activists, representatives from media, NGO, educationists and legal experts. One aim of this meet was to seek a consensus amongst

leaders of diverse religions who would simultaneously condemn female foeticide and call for its abolition.

All religious leaders out-rightly condemned the practice of female foeticide and gave a call to the citizens of India for shunning this inhuman practice.

In order to check the cases of female foeticide, the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 banning disclosure of sex of foetus is already under implementation in all States and UTs except J&K. The responsibility for implementation of the Act largely rests with the States/Union Territories. The States/UTs have been advised to mount effective awareness campaign to make the public and service providers aware of the provisions of the Act. The States/UTs have also been advised to provide protection to social activists and Non-governmental Organizations giving information or filing complaints of violation of provisions of the Act.

Workshops/Seminars are being organised at State/district level, to create awareness about the provisions "of the Act. Voluntary Organisations are also being involved to carry out projects regarding, creating awareness about the provisions of the Act.

National Level Non-Governmental Organisations have been requested to take up projects for generating awareness about the provisions of the Act, among doctors/clinics/law enforcing authorities, and public at large.

A meeting of appropriate Authorities of States/UTs under PNDT Act was held on 30th June, 2001 for sensitizing them to take effective steps for enforcing the law & creating awareness at the grass-root level.